



**OCT. 6, 2009**

## **HEALTH UPDATE**

### **Use of Live Attenuated Influenza Vaccine for Health-Care Providers** *Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) Recommendations*

The North Dakota Department of Health has received questions regarding the use of live attenuated influenza virus vaccine (LAIV) in health-care workers. Included below is an excerpt from the Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report July 24, 2009, "Prevention and Control of Seasonal Influenza with Vaccines: Recommendations of the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) 2009" which can be found at the following website: [www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/rr5808a1.htm](http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/rr5808a1.htm). Please note that this information applies to both the novel H1N1 and seasonal influenza vaccines.

### **Close Contacts of Immunocompromised Persons**

Immunocompromised people are at risk for influenza complications, but might have inadequate protection after vaccination. Close contacts of immunocompromised people, including health-care providers, should be vaccinated to reduce the risk for influenza transmission. Trivalent influenza vaccine (TIV) is recommended for vaccinating household members, health-care providers and others who have close contact with severely immunosuppressed persons (e.g., patients with hematopoietic stem cell transplants) during those periods in which the immunosuppressed person requires care in a protective environment (typically defined as a specialized patient care area with a positive airflow relative to the corridor, high-efficiency particulate air filtration and frequent air changes).

Transmission from a recently LAIV vaccinated person causing clinically important illness in an immunocompromised contact has not been reported. The rationale for avoiding use of LAIV among health-care providers or other close contacts of severely immunocompromised patients is the theoretical risk that a live, attenuated vaccine virus could be transmitted to the severely immunosuppressed person. As a precautionary measure, health-care providers who receive LAIV should avoid providing care for severely immunosuppressed patients requiring a protected environment for seven days after vaccination. Hospital visitors who have received LAIV should avoid contact with severely immunosuppressed persons in protected environments for seven days after vaccination, but should not be restricted from visiting less severely immunosuppressed patients.

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No preference is indicated for TIV use by people who have close contact with persons with lesser degrees of immunosuppression (e.g., people with diabetes, people with asthma who take corticosteroids, people who have recently received chemotherapy or radiation but who are not being cared for in a protective environment as defined above or people infected with HIV) or for TIV use by health-care providers or other healthy people who are not pregnant ages 2 through 49 years who are in close contact with persons in all other groups at high risk.

For more information, please contact the North Dakota Department of Health, Division of Disease Control, at 701.328.2378 or 800.472.2180.

*Categories of Health Alert messages:*

- *Health Alert conveys the highest level of importance; warrants immediate action or attention.*
- *Health Advisory provides important information for a specific incident or situation; may not require immediate action.*
- *Health Update provides updated information regarding an incident or situation; no immediate action necessary.*
- *Health Information provides general information that is not necessarily considered to be of an emergent nature.*

*This message is being sent to local public health units, clinics, hospitals, physicians, tribal health, North Dakota Nurses Association, North Dakota Long Term Care Association, North Dakota Healthcare Association, North Dakota Medical Association, and hospital public information officers.*